

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 COA-02 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 INT-08 AGR-20 CG-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 RSR-01 /147 W

----- 065690

R 131900- Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3539

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USOCD PARIS 434

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

COMICEDEFOR

NISRA/ KEFLAVIK

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0389

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR IC UK GW

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: ALTHING DEBATE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING ALTHING DEBATE APRIL 12 FONMIN AGUSTSSON EXPRESSED HOPE THAT INTERIM AGREEMENTS CAN BE CONCLUDED WITH HMG AND FRG WHICH WILL GIVE THESE NATIONS TIME TO ADJUST TO CHANGED CONDITIONS. HE SAID GOI ATTACHED HOPE TO OUTCOME OF UN LOS AND ALSO SAID THAT EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONS EXTENDING FISHERIES LIMITS ARE ENCOURAGING TO ICELAND. END SUMMARY.

2. FONMIN AGUSTSSON, SPEAKING DURING FORMAL ALTHING DEBATE ON GOVERNMENT POLICY APRIL 12, CLAIMED THAT MOST NATIONS HAD UNCLASSIFIED

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ALREADY RECOGNIZED ICELAND'S UNILATERAL EXTENSION OF ITS FISHING LIMITS TO 50 MILES. THIS HAD BEEN DONE BY NATIONS PREVENTING

THEIR FISHING FLEETS FROM VIOLATING NEW ICELANDIC LIMITS. PROBLEMS REMAINED WITH ONLY TWO NATIONS, UK AND WEST GERMANY, WHICH HAVE CONTINUED " UNLAWFUL " FISHING IN ICELANDIC WATERS. ALTHOUGH RESOLUTION OF FEBRUARY 15, 1972 STIPULATED THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO REACH INTERIM AGREEMENTS WITH THESE NATIONS. MAJORITY OF ICELANDERS REALIZE THAT SUDDEN CUTTING OFF OF FISHING GROUNDS WHICH THESE NATIONS HAVE UTILIZED WILL AFFECT PEOPLE IN CERTAIN FISHING PORTS. THEREFORE, ATTEMPTS SHOULD BE MADE TO REACH INTERIM AGREEMENTS. AGUSTSSON WARNED THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS COULD RESULT IF NATIONS CONCERNED BELIEVE THAT REPEATED BREAKING OF ICELANDIC LIMITS CAN IMPROVE THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITIONS. HE STRESSED THAT GOI HAD KEPT DOOR OPEN AND MADE OFFERS TO REACH INTERIM AGREEMENTS. HE SAID " IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT AGREEMENTS WILL BE REACHED, AGREEMENTS THAT WILL BE HONORABLE AND FAVORABLE FOR ICELAND IN EVERY RESPECT AND WILL ALSO GIVE THESE NATIONS TIME TO ADJUST TO CHANGED CONDITIONS. ON OUR BEHALF AN INTERIM PERIOD OF TWO YEARS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED..."

3. AGUSTSSON CLAIMED THE GOI ATTACHED GREAT HOPE TO UN LOS. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE MORE AND MORE EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONS ANNOUNCING UNILATERAL EXTENSIONS OF FISHING JURISDICTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING IN EACH CASE. THEREFORE THERE WAS " EVERY REASON TO HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE FAVORABLE FOR US..."

4. SPEAKING FOR THE OPPOSITION, INDEPENDENCE PARTY, VICE CHAIRMAN GEIR HALLGRIMSSON SAID THAT OPPOSITION HAD MADE EFFORT TO PRESERVE AS MUCH UNITY AS POSSIBLE ON ISSUE. HE CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT FOR NOT CONSULTING MORE WITH OPPOSITION, ASSERTING THAT IT SHOULD WORK WITH OPPOSITION TO ASSURE DOMINION OVER 50- MILE LIMIT AND ALL OF CONTINENTAL SHELF ( CLAIM TO WHICH IS MADE BY IP). HALLGRIMSSON SAID HE DID NOT ADVOCATE FURTHER ACTIVITIES BY ICELANDIC COAST GUARD BEYOND THESE PRESENTLY UNDERTAKEN SINCE SUCH MIGHT ENDANGER LIVES. HE SAID THAT ICELAND SHOULD ARGUE CASE BEFORE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE: " WE WILL NOT LOSE THE CASE IN THE HAGUE UNLESS WE L

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**Subject:** FISHERIES DISPUTE: ALTHING DEBATE  
**TAGS:** PBOR IC UK GW  
**To:** STATE INFO BONN  
BRUSSELY  
COPENHAGEN  
LONDON  
OSLO  
USOECD PARIS  
USEC BRUSSELS

GENEVA  
USUN  
COMICEDEFOR  
NISRA KEFLAVIK K

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